

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CURACA 00791 272202Z

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 EB-11 TRSE-00 INT-08 SCEM-02

COME-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 DRC-01 /145 W

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P R 272030Z DEC 73

FM AMCONSUL CURACAO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1644

INFO COMCARIBSEAFRONTIER UNN

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMCONSUL PARAMARIBO

AMEMBASSY MARTINIQUE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, NA

SUBJECT: PLACEMENT OF DUTCH NAVAL SECURITY PATROLS ON
OIL REFINERIES IN CURACAO AND ARUBA

1. ON DEC. 18, 1973 THE DUTCH NAVY BEGAN ARMED SECURITY PATROLS OF ALL HARBOR AREAS AND THE SEAS ADJOINING THE SHELL REFINERY ON CURACAO AND THE EXXON REFINERY ON ARUBA. THESE PATROLS WERE ESTABLISHED ON INSTRUCTIONS TO COMMODORE F.B. HAMILTON, COMMANDER OF THE NETHERLANDS ANTILLES FORCES, FROM THE DUTCH NAVY COMMANDER IN HOLLAND. THE PATROLS ARE TO REMAIN IN EFFECT UNTIL FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS FROM HOLLAND.

COMMENT: THE PLACEMENT OF THESE PATROLS ON THE REFINERIES IS A MOST INTERESTING DEVELOPMENT PARTICULARLY IN THE LIGHT OF THE PREVIOUS RELUCTANT ATTITUDE OF HOLLAND TOWARD RETAINING THE DUTCH NAVAL BASES IN THE NA AND THEIR INDICATION THAT THE BASES WOULD REMAIN ONLY WITH THE PROVISIO THAT THEY WERE

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PAGE 02 CURACA 00791 272202Z

ONLY FOR QTE EXTERNAL UNQTE DEFENSE.

2. I HAVE BEEN RELIABLY INFORMED THAT GOV. LEITO AND MOST LOCAL POLITICAL FIGURES ARE DELIGHTED WITH HOLLAND'S VOLUNTARY INVOLVEMENT IN THIS MATTER. IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT THE ORDER CAUGHT EVERYONE ON THE LOCAL SCENE BY SURPRISE AND WAS ISSUED FROM HOLLAND WITH NO PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE OR ADVICE WHATSOEVER FROM THE NA.

3. MOST LOCAL OPINION IS THAT THE ORDER CAME DIRECTLY FROM THE ROYAL FAMILY IN HOLLAND TO PROVIDE ALL POSSIBLE PROTECTION FOR ROYAL DUTCH SHELL ON CURACAO IN WHICH THE ROYAL FAMILY IS REPORTED TO HAVE CONSIDERABLE FINANCIAL INTEREST. EXXON ON ARUBA BENEFITED FROM THE ORDER AND WAS INCLUDED AS A SORT OF SIDE GESTURE FOR UNIFORMITY. LOCAL POLITICAL FIGURES ARE PLEASED THAT THE GON WAS COMPLETELY OPEN ON THE MATTER AND APPEARED TO SEEK PUBLICITY FOR IT. THE MATTER WAS ANNOUNCED IN THE LOCAL NEWSPAPERS SEVERAL DAYS AFTER THE PLACEMENT OF THE SECURITY.

4. LOCAL POLITICIANS ARE MOST ENTHUSIASTIC THAT THIS IS A STRONG INDICATION THAT HOLLAND'S FUTURE INTENTIONS, PARTICULARLY WHEN THE CHIPS ARE DOWN, AND MORE PARTICULARLY WHEN THE REFINERIES ARE CONCERNED, THE GON IS STILL WILLING TO INVOLVE ITSELF IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE NA.
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Message Attributes

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